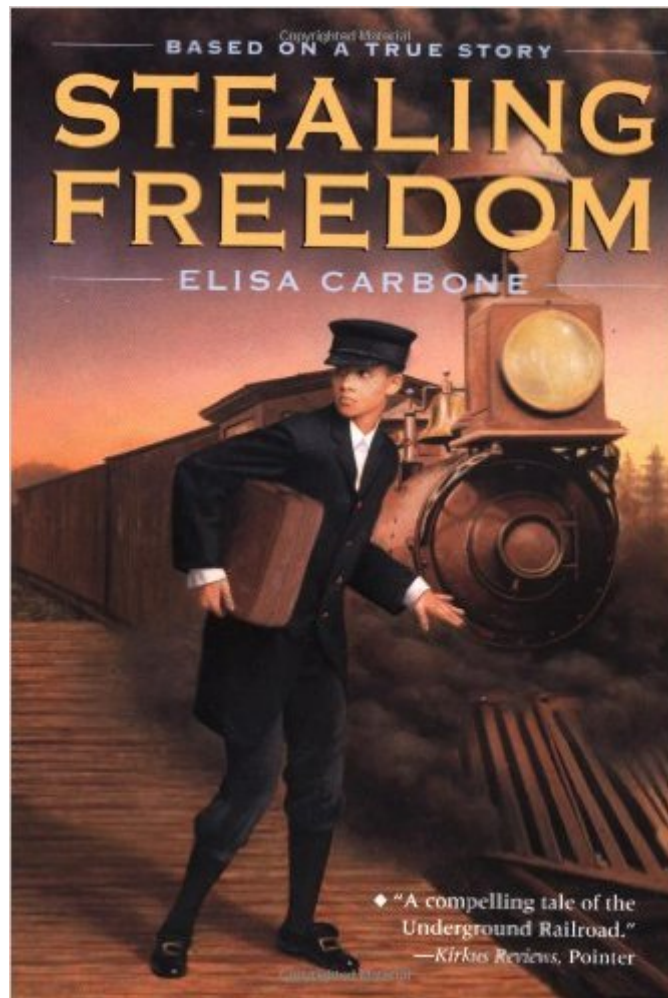


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# Stealing Freedom



## Synopsis

Inspired by a true story, the riveting novel of a young slave girl's harrowing escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad. The moment Ann Maria Weems was born, her freedom was stolen from her. Like her family and the other slaves on the farm, Ann works from sunup to sundown and obeys the orders of her master. Then one day, Ann's family -- the only joy she knows -- is gone. Just 12 years old, Ann is overcome by grief, struggling to get through each day. And her only hope of stealing back her freedom and finding her family lies in a perilous journey: the Underground Railroad. Ann Maria Weems was an actual slave who lived in the mid-1800s near the author's home in Maryland.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #118,151 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 19th Century](#) #4942 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book was a treasure. I can't recommend it highly enough. There were passages of this book that I read through tears, while others were read with my heart pounding. The character of Ann Maria is such a courageous, likeable person, I found myself wanting to know more. I was genuinely disappointed when I stopped reading, and can only hope that Prof. Carbone is able to find more information so that she can update us on Ann Maria's life in freedom. This book is a must-read for anyone who loves good fiction, is interested in the human face of slavery, and for any history-buff.

I picked up this book in the library when I couldn't find much else I wanted to read and I didn't think that it would be that great....I was wrong! This book kept my interest and I could hardly put it down. There were times when tears when in my eyes..other times I wanted to laugh. It is a very touching book and one you won't forget soon.

My association with *Stealing Freedom* began while researching into the history of my G, G, G, grandfather, Ellwood Harvey. We have a two page photo essay (Philadelphia Inquirer 1938) which recreated the history of Ellwood helping a slave named Ann Maria Weeks (sic). It was Ellwood who took her from in front of the White House and to William Still's house in Philly. Two days later he took her to NYC where she traveled onto Canada. Little did I know that Ann Maria Weems was a very well-known case in the Underground Railroad circles. Elisa came to visit Ellwood's grave last year, 150 years after his part in the rescue. Her book is very accurate, but cited Dr. H since that was how William Still reported Ellwood Harvey in his book on the UGRR. In the back of the paperback edition Elisa acknowledges that Ellwood was Dr. H. He was an abolitionist (his letter about witnessing a slave auction can be found in Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, *A Key To Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and on various internet sites. Ellwood was a supporter of women's rights. He taught at the Female Medical College of Philadelphia in the 1850. It was the first college in the world for female doctors. Part of the reason he rescued Ann was to get the \$300 reward from Lewis Tappan. He used that to buy a dissection mannequin for the women's college. Ellwood continued to hide runaway slaves in his stable loft in Chester, PA during the Civil War. Ann made it to Buxton, Canada, but nobody knows anything about her after that. Bryan Prince, a Canadian museum curator and author, has a book coming out on the whole Weems family in 2008. Should be a good read. I love historical fiction and Ms. Carbone does it well. The fact that I am related to one of the characters in this particular book is icing on the cake.

This book is wonderful! It is about a girl named Ann Maria Weems who lives as a slave during the Civil War. One day, the unthinkable happens. An abolitionist come to free her family is unable to take her. Will she ever see her family again? Be free? Recommended to anyone who wants to learn about the Civil War, slavery, or just wants a good read. P.S.- It's also a Mark Twain Award Nominee

This is the 2nd book I have read by Elisa Carbone (the first one was the story about the founding of Jamestown in 1607, recommended to me by a 10 year-old student who read it in school). I am a senior citizen and I could not stop reading this book! The author does an incredible job of her research and then surrounds her story with plausible fiction. I plan to order her other books, as she makes Human History --- and all the heartfelt emotions -- come alive!

Ann Maria Weems is a slave in America. Her family is bought and freed, but her master refuses to

free Ann. So Ann conceives of a daring plan - she will steal her freedom from her master and escape on the underground railroad. I loved this book because of the excitement of the escape, constantly changing disguises as she travels north by carriage and by train. The book has a happy but exciting ending. It's perfect for a 10 year old avid reader-like me!

I had never heard about Anne Marie until I started researching the Underground Railroad. I tell you my people went through a lot to get freedom. Read about Anne and you will learn a lot. The book is easy to read for all ages. The book shows how smart slaves were in securing their freedom. They were not dummies as the white man thought.

I teach in a self-contained special education classroom; where reading is the last thing on my highschooler's "to do list". They absolutely loved this book! We stretched it out into our social studies class, where they loved learning about the Underground Railroad. I highly recommend this book!

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